

We claim:

1. A system for providing a client with at least one item of data according to said item of data's value, said system comprising;

5 a downloading component for obtaining at least one item of data from a source;

a classifier component for associating a value to each said item of data using a profile;

10 a training component that selects at least one of said item of data according to certain labels, said selected items of data being grouped to form training data;

a learning component that accepts said training data and automatically creates said profile; and

a presenter component for accepting a request from a client and transmitting said items of data selected according to said values.

15 2. A system as in claim 1, further comprising a database for storing said items of data, said values and said profiles.

3. A system as in claim 1, wherein said downloading component is effectuated at time intervals.

20 4. A method of obtaining and automatically associating a value to an item of data comprising the steps of:

obtaining at least one item of data from a source;

obtaining labels for at least one of said items of data;

selecting items of data with certain labels to form training data;

creating a profile from said training data; and

25 associating a value to at least one of said items of data using said profile.

5. The method of claim 4, further comprising the steps of:

receiving requests from clients; and  
transmitting at least one item of data according to said requests and said  
associated values to said client.

5 6. The method of claim 4, further comprising the steps of:

introducing at least one new item of data to said training data; and  
generating a new profile from said training data.

7. The method of claim 4, wherein said profile is automatically generated.

10 8. The method of claim 4, wherein said value is an estimate of said label, for  
items without said label.

9. The method of claim 4, wherein said profile specifies said associated value  
based on low-level features of said item selected from the group consisting of  
length, vocabulary, fraction of words spelled correctly, title, author, reading grade  
level, average length of sentences, average length of words, usage of  
15 punctuation, usage of grammar, formatting, capitalization, source, display tags  
and any combinations thereof.

10. The method of claim 4, wherein said value is measured on a quantitative  
scale of measurement.

20 11. The method of claim 4, wherein said value is measured on a categorical  
scale of measurement.

12. The method of claim 4, further comprising storing said items of data in a  
database.

25 13. The method of claim 4, further comprising storing said associated values in a  
database.

14. The method of claim 4, wherein the step of obtaining labels for at least one of  
said items of data is accomplished by a human providing said labels.

15. The method of claim 4, wherein said labels are selected according to levels of quality, interestingness, appropriateness, timeliness, humor, style of language, obscenity, sentiment, and any combinations thereof.

5 16. A method for providing a client with at least one item of data according to said item of data's value, said method further comprising the computer implemented steps of:

obtaining labels for at least one of said items of data;

selecting items of data with certain labels to form training data;

creating a profile from said training data;

10 10 associating a value with at least one of said items of data using said profile;

accepting a request including value selection criteria from a client;

selecting at least one item of data according to said value selection criteria; and

15 11 transmitting said items of data to said client.

17. A method as in claim 16, further comprising the steps of:

accepting a request including a value threshold from a client; and

retrieving items of data relative to said value threshold.

18. A method as in claim 16, further comprising the steps of:

20 12 introducing at least one new item of data to said training data; and  
generating a new profile from said training data.

19. The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of associating a value with an item of data by retrieving a value previously associated with said item of data.

25 13 20. The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of associating a value with an item of data by generating said value for said item of data using said profile.

21. The method of claim 16, wherein said value is quantitative.

22. The method of claim 16, wherein said value is categorical.

23. The method of claim 16, further comprising storing said items of data in a database.

24. The method of claim 16, further comprising storing said associated values in  
5 a database.

25. A method for providing a client with at least one item of data according to  
said item of data's value, said method further comprising the computer  
implemented steps of:

10 obtaining labels for at least one item of data, wherein said item of data is  
information contained within an electronic bulletin board, and said labels  
designate level of quality, interestingness, appropriateness, timeliness,  
humor, style of language, obscenity, sentiment, or any combination  
thereof;

15 selecting said items of data with certain labels to form training data;

creating a profile from said training data;

associating a value to at least one of said items of data using said profile;

accepting a request including value selection criteria from a client;

selecting at least one item of data according to said values and said value  
selection criteria; and

20 transmitting said selected items of data to said client.

26. The method of claim 25, further comprising storing said items of data in a  
database.

27. The method of claim 25, further comprising storing said associated values in  
a database.

25 28. A system for automatically retrieving and presenting a client with items  
according to their qualitative nature, comprising:

at least one computer system having at least one item of data available;

at least one access device for enabling said client to communicate with

said computer system;

a classifier means effective to automatically associate a value to said items of data, wherein said value is indicative of the qualitative nature of said data;

5 a means for a client to provide a request for at least one said item of data according to criteria; and

a transmitting means adapted to present at least one said item of data to said client selected according to said criteria.

29. A system as in claim 28, wherein said item of data is a text message.

10 30. A system as in claim 28, wherein said value is selected from the group consisting of quality, interestingness, appropriateness, timeliness, humor, style of language, obscenity, sentiment, and any combinations thereof.

FOOTNOTES

15